



PRESS RELEASE

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USAID Transfers Packing Facility to an Afghan Company

SURKHROD, NANGARHAR, THURSDAY, MARCH 29, 2012—The Surkhrod Packing facility, established and run by the United States Agency for International Development's (USAID) Incentives Driving Economic Alternatives for the North, East and West (IDEA-NEW) Project, and its predecessor, Alternative Development Program (ADP), was officially handed over to Tak Dana, Afghanistan's first integrated fruit and vegetable processing company, at a ribbon cutting ceremony today.

The Surkhrod Packing facility provides grading, sorting, packing and cold storage transportation services for farmers in Nangarhar, Laghman, Kunar and Nuristan provinces. The facility trims, cleans, and sanitizes fruits and vegetables grown by farms and greenhouses in the eastern region of Afghanistan. Operating with a workforce that includes 15 female employees, the packing facility can process and pack up to 5 metric tons of fresh vegetables and fruits per day.

The Surkhrod Packing facility gives the Tak Dana Company an opportunity to expand its current export business to more international markets where there is high demand for fresh fruits and vegetables.

USAID's IDEA-NEW Project accelerates broad-based economic development and promotes economic growth by implementing long term, sustainable agribusiness and economic alternatives programs. The project helps farmers access improved seeds, fertilizers and pesticides, and provides training in modern and productive cultivation techniques, while connecting them to markets.

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For more information about USAID's programs, please visit: <http://afghanistan.usaid.gov>

The American people, through the U.S. Agency for International Development, have provided economic and humanitarian assistance worldwide for more than 50 years."



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